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PATENT

Proposed Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance comprising:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking~~.~~; and

wherein said performance score increases when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is a downward revision, and wherein said performance score decreases when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is a downward revision.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein determining at least one of the analyst's performance and performance score is based on at least one of three distinct periods of time comprising a short period of time which is about five days, an intermediate period of time which is about twenty days, and a long period of time which is about sixty days.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said performance score increases with the number of revisions.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising adjusting said performance score according to a modifier accentuating the number of revisions made by the analyst.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising adjusting said performance score according to a return penalty.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein ~~small~~ said return penalty is generated by subtracting a penalty from an average of a first, second and third period of time return factor; wherein for upward revisions said penalty is 0 if an average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is greater than 15%, else said penalty is equal to 15% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein for downward revisions said penalty is 0 if said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is less than -8%, else said penalty is equal to -8% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein said first period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said first period of time is greater than ten, else said first period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said first period of time; wherein said second period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said second period of time is greater than ten, else said second period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said second period of time; and wherein

said third period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said third period of time is greater than ten, else said third period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said third period of time.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score= 0 otherwise

$$Tstat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_2 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$Tstat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_3 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$Tstat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein $DF_1 = revisions_1 - 1$; $DF_2 = revisions_2 - 1$; and $DF_3 = revisions_3 - 1$

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, t-$stat_1$, t-$stat_2$, and t-$stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1 is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; t-$stat_1 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_1$ is set to 20; t$stat_2 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_2$ is set to 20; t-$stat_3 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_3$ is set to 20; t-$stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; t-$stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or t-$stat_3 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return, < 0, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.

29-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating an analyst's performance, said system comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing a computer program controlling operation of said processor, said program including instructions for causing the processor to effect:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking.; and

wherein said performance score increases when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is a downward revision, and wherein said performance score decreases when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is a downward revision.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein said program further comprises instructions to effect adjusting said performance score according to a modifier accentuating the number of revisions made by the analyst.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second

period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_2 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_3 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein $DF_1 = revisions_1 - 1$; $DF_2 = revisions_2 - 1$; and $DF_3 = revisions_3 - 1$

43. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, t-$stat_1$, t-$stat_2$, and t-$stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1 is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; t-$stat_1 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_1$ is set to 20; $tstat_2 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_2$ is set to 20; t-$stat_3 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_3$ is set to 20; t-$stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; t-$stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or t-$stat_3$ < 0-0.1, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

44. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1 < 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.

45-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating an analyst's performance, said system comprising:

means for utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

means for calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

means for comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking.; and

wherein said performance score increases when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is a downward revision, and wherein said performance score decreases when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is a downward revision.

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, further comprising means for adjusting said performance score according to a modifier accentuating the number of revisions made by the analyst.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. return$_1$), second average return value (ave. return$_2$), and third average return value (ave. return$_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time (time$_1$), a second period of time (time$_2$), and a third period of time (time$_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value (t-stat$_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value (t-stat$_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value (t-stat$_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions (revisions$_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions (revisions$_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions (revisions$_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability (prob$_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability (prob$_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability (prob$_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing prob$_1$, prob$_2$, and prob$_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

57. (Original) The system off claim 56, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score= 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if SD_2, = 0, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if SD_3, = 0, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein DF_1= $revisions_1$ - 1; DF_2 = $revisions_2$ - 1; and DF_3 = $revisions_3$ – 1

58. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, t-$stat_1$, t-$stat_2$, and t-$stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1,is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; t-$stat_1 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_1$ is set to 20; t$stat_2 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_2$ is set to 20; t-$stat_3 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_3$ is set to 20; t-$stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; t-$stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or t-$stat_3$ < 0.01, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

59. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100.$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return $_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1$ $1 < 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions probe is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.

60-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, said signal bearing instructions for causing a computer system to evaluate an analyst's performance, said instructions comprising:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking~~.~~; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return

on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

66. (Original) The signal of claim 65, further comprising instructions for adjusting said performance score according to a modifier accentuating the number of revisions made by the analyst.

67-72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer, the instructions for instructing the computer to effect evaluating an analyst's performance, said instructions comprising:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking~~.~~; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a, third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

74. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 73, further comprising adjusting said performance score according to a modifier accentuating the number of revisions made by the analyst.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance, said method comprising:

a step for utilizing information pertaining to at least one revision made by the analyst involving at least one investment, including an upward or downward change in opinion of the analyst with regard to the at least one investment;

a step for calculating a conditional performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said raw conditional performance score determined at least in part by considering a measure of variability of the analyst's performance, an average historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one revision, a standard deviation of the at least one revision, a number of revisions made by the analyst, and a likelihood that the at least one revision will actually produce an expected result; and

a step for adjusting said conditional performance score according to a return amount adjustment to produce a final performance score.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance, said method comprising:

a step for utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

a step for calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, , determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result; ~~and~~

a step for comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking~~.~~; and

wherein said performance score increases when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is a downward revision, and wherein said performance score decreases when a rate of return of the at least one investment decreases and the revision is an upward revision, or when a rate of return of the at least one investment increases and the revision is a downward revision.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision

79 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision.

80 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein means for calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision.

81 (Previously Presented) The computer data signal of claim 65, wherein calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision.

82 (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium storing instructions of claim 73, wherein calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein calculating a performance score further comprises determining a standard deviation based on at least one upward revision and downward revision.

84. (New) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance comprising:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

adjusting said performance score according to a return penalty.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein the return penalty is generated by subtracting a penalty from an average of a first, second and third period of time return factor; wherein for upward revisions said penalty is 0 if an average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is greater than 15%, else said penalty is equal to 15% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein for downward revisions said penalty is 0 if said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is less than -8%, else said penalty is equal to -8% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein said first period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said first period of time is greater than ten, else said first period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said first period of time; wherein said second period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said second period of time is greater than ten, else said second period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said second period of time; and wherein said third period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said third period of time is greater than ten, else said third period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said third period of time.

86. (New) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance comprising:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. return$_1$), second average return value (ave. return$_2$), and third average return value (ave. return$_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time (time$_1$), a second period of time (time$_2$), and a third period of time (time$_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value (t-stat$_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value (t-stat$_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value (t-stat$_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions (revisions$_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions (revisions$_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions (revisions$_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability (prob$_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability (prob$_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability (prob$_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing prob$_1$, prob$_2$, and prob$_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score= 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_2 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_3 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein $DF_1 = revisions_1 - 1$; $DF_2 = revisions_2 - 1$; and $DF_3 = revisions_3 - 1$

88. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, t-$stat_1$, t-$stat_2$, and t-$stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1 is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; t-$stat_1 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_1$ is set to 20; t$stat_2 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_2$ is set to 20; t-$stat_3 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_3$ is set to 20; t-$stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; t-$stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or t-$stat_3 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

89. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return, < 0, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.

90. (New) A system for evaluating an analyst's performance, said system comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing a computer program controlling operation of said processor, said program including instructions for causing the processor to effect:

utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first,

second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

91. (New) The system of claim 90, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$Tstat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein if SD_2, = 0, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if SD_3, = 0, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein DF_1 = revisions$_1$ - 1; DF_2 = revisions$_2$ - 1; and DF_3 = revisions$_3$ –1

92. (New) The system of claim 90, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions prob$_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_1$ > 0, else prob$_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions prob$_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_2$ > 0, else prob$_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions prob$_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_3$ > 0, else prob$_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions prob$_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_1$ < 0, else prob$_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions prob$_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_2$ < 0, else prob$_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions prob$_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_3$ < 0, else prob$_3$ is added to 0.5.

93. (New) A system for evaluating an analyst's performance, said system comprising:

means for utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

means for calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of

the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

means for comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third

probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

94. (New) The system off claim 93, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score= 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_2 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_3 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}}\right)} \right|$$

; wherein DF_1= $revisions_1$ - 1; DF_2 = $revisions_2$ - 1; and DF_3 = $revisions_3$ – 1

95. (New) The system of claim 93, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, $t\text{-}stat_1$, $t\text{-}stat_2$, and $t\text{-}stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1,is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; $t\text{-}stat_1 > 20$, in which case $t\text{-}stat_1$ is set to 20;

$tstat_2 > 20$, in which case $t\text{-}stat_2$ is set to 20; $t\text{-}stat_3 > 20$, in which case $t\text{-}stat_3$ is set to 20; $t\text{-}stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; $t\text{-}stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or $t\text{-}stat_3 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

96. (New) The system of claim 93, wherein

$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return $_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return$_1$ $1 < 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions probe is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.

97. (New) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance, said method comprising:

a step for utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

a step for calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, , determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

a step for comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

adjusting said performance score according to a return penalty.

98. (New) The method of claim 97, wherein the return penalty is generated by subtracting a penalty from an average of a first, second and third period of time return factor; wherein for upward revisions said penalty is 0 if an average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is greater than 15%, else said penalty is equal to 15% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein for downward revisions said penalty is 0 if said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time is less than -8%, else said penalty is equal to -8% minus said average return value corresponding to the investment for a long term period of time; wherein said first period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said first period of time is greater than ten, else said first period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said first period of time; wherein said second period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said second period of time is greater than ten, else said second period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said second period of time; and wherein said third period of time return factor is ten if an average return over said third period of time is greater than ten, else said third period of time return factor is equal to a cube root of a product of 100 and said average return over said third period of time.

99. (New) A method of evaluating an analyst's performance, said method comprising:

a step for utilizing information pertaining to at least one of an upward revision and a downward revision of an analyst's opinion of at least one investment;

a step for calculating a performance score indicative of the analyst's performance relative to other analysts, said performance score determined by at least one of measuring variability of the analyst's performance based on at least one of an upward revision and downward revision, averaging historical performance of the at least one investment following the at least one upward revision and downward revision, , determining a number based on at least one of an upward revisions and downward revisions made by the analyst, and determining a likelihood that at least one upward revision and downward revision will actually produce an expected result;

a step for comparing the analyst's performance score against performance scores of other analysts to produce at least one of an upward ranking, a downward ranking, and a combined revision ranking; and

wherein said calculating a performance score comprises:

determining a first average return value (ave. $return_1$), second average return value (ave. $return_2$), and third average return value (ave. $return_3$) for the at least one revision, said first, second, and third average return values corresponding respectively to an average rate of return on the at least one revision involving the investment for a first period of time ($time_1$), a second period of time ($time_2$), and a third period of time ($time_3$);

calculating, in absolute terms, a first t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_1$) for said first average return value, a second t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_2$) for said second average return value, and a third t-stat value ($t\text{-}stat_3$) for said third average return value, said first, second, and third t-stat values calculated by utilizing said first, second, and third average return values, a first standard deviation (SD_1), a second standard deviation (SD_2), and a third standard deviation (SD_3), a total number of revisions ($revisions_1$) occurring more than or equal to the first period of time before said evaluating, a total number of revisions ($revisions_2$) occurring more than or equal to the second period of time before said evaluating, and a total number of revisions ($revisions_3$) occurring more than or equal to the third period of time before said evaluating;

calculating a first degree of freedom (DF_1) for said first average return value, a second degree of freedom (DF_2) for said second average return value, and a third degree of freedom (DF_3) for said third average return value;

determining a first probability ($prob_1$) for said first period of time by utilizing said first t-stat value and said first degree of freedom, a second probability ($prob_2$) for said second period of time by utilizing said second t-stat value and said second degree of freedom, and a third probability ($prob_3$) for said third period of time by utilizing said third t-stat value and said third degree of freedom; and

generating a conditional performance score (cond. performance score) for the analyst by utilizing $prob_1$, $prob_2$, and $prob_3$, which may be manipulated to produce said performance score.

100. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein if $SD_1 = 0$, then conditional performance score= 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_1 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return1}{\left(\frac{SD1}{\sqrt{revisions1}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_2 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_2 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return2}{\left(\frac{SD2}{\sqrt{revisions2}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein if $SD_3 = 0$, then conditional performance score = 0 otherwise

$$T\,stat_3 = \left| \frac{ave.\ return3}{\left(\frac{SD3}{\sqrt{revisions3}} \right)} \right|$$

; wherein $DF_1 = revisions_1 - 1$; $DF_2 = revisions_2 - 1$; and $DF_3 = revisions_3 - 1$

101. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein said probabilities are determined according to a predetermined look-up table using actual calculated values of: DF_1, DF_2, DF_3, t-$stat_1$, t-$stat_2$, and t-$stat_3$, unless: $DF_1 > 100$, in which case DF_1 is set to 100; $DF_2 > 100$, in which case DF_2 is set to 100; $DF_3 > 100$, in which case DF_3 is set to 100; t-$stat_1 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_1$ is set to 20; t$stat_2 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_2$ is set to 20; t-$stat_3 > 20$, in which case t-$stat_3$ is set to 20; t-$stat_1 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_1$ is set to 0; t-$stat_2 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_2$ is set to 0; or t-$stat_3 < 0.01$, in which case $prob_3$ is set to 0.

102. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein

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$$cond\_performance\_score = \left\{ \frac{[1-(.5+or-prob1)]+[1-(.5+or-prob2)]+[1-(.5+or-prob3)]}{3} \right\} * 100,$$

wherein for upward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_1 > 0$, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 > 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; wherein for upward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 > 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_1$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. return, < 0, else $prob_1$ is added to 0.5; wherein for downward revisions $prob_2$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_2 < 0$, else $prob_2$ is added to 0.5; and wherein for downward revisions $prob_3$ is subtracted from 0.5 if ave. $return_3 < 0$, else $prob_3$ is added to 0.5.